

17

8 Fe

THE
T R I A L 12
OF

Mrs. Alicia Rybot,

WIFE OF

FRANCIS THOMAS RYBOT, Esq.

MERCER, OF CHEAPSIDE, LONDON.

FOR ADULTERY WITH

MR. SCHOOLE, BARRISTER AT LAW.

TRIED IN THE

Bishop of London's Court, Doctor's Commons.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR E. BENTLY, N^o. 22, FETTER-LANE.

11



THE

T R I A L

OF

Mrs. Alicia Rybot,

WIFE OF



Esq.

FRANCIS

London

MERCER, of

FOR ADVOCACY WITH

MR. SCHOLE, BARRISTER AT LAW.

TRIED IN THE

Bishop of London's Court, Doctors Commons.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR E. DENTON, N. 22, FETTER LANE.

To the second article of the said libel, and the paper writing marked with the letter A therein pleaded and referred to, and to the said libel annexed, the deponent saith he hath known the artute Francis Thomas Rybot the
B producent

producent in this cause, about eleven years
 past, and prior to his marriage; and came to
 know the artute Alicia Rybot, the other par-
 ty in this cause, in consequence of her mar-
 riage with, and coming to live and cohabit
 with, the said Francis Thomas Rybot as his
 wife, which happened in the month of Janu-
 ary, 1779; and at which time, and ever since,
 the deponent hath understood, and believes,
 the said Francis Thomas Rybot, and Alicia
 Rybot, whose former name the deponent hath
 always understood to be Fowler, were mar-
 ried at the parish-church of Stoke Damerell,
 near Plymouth, in the county of Devon.
 And the deponent further saith, That in the
 month of December last, he went to Ply-
 mouth, amongst other business, to search for,
 and make an extract of the entry of the mar-
 riage of the said Francis Thomas Rybot, and
 Alicia Rybot, formerly Fowler, by the de-
 sire of the producent; and, on the eighth day
 of the said month, searched for, and found,
 and made an extract or copy of the entry of
 the said marriage, then appearing in a book
 produced to the deponent, as the original Re-
 gister Book of marriages, kept in and for the
 said parish of Stoke Damerell, by the Reve-
 rend Edward Bridges Blackett, Doctor in Di-
 vinity, the Rector of the said parish, in whose
 custody it then was at his dwelling-house; and
 having so done, the deponent collected the
 said copy or extract with, and found it to
 contain

contain a true and faithful copy or extract of the said original entry, and he thereupon applied the blank left for the date, and subscribed his name to the certificate of what he had so done appearing under the said extract. And the deponent saith, That the copy or extract of a marriage appearing in the said exhibit marked A, now produced to him, and the date of the day of the month, "eighth," appearing in the certificate under the said extract, and the name of "Geo. Cooper" appearing subscribed to such certificate, are of his proper hand writing and subscription, and he thereby knows the copy or extract contained in the said exhibit, to be the very copy by him herein before deposed of; and he verily believes that Francis Thomas Rybot, and Alicia Fowler, mentioned in the copy or extract contained in the said exhibit, and in the aforesaid original entry, of which the same is a copy; and the artute Francis Thomas Rybot, the producent, and Alicia Rybot, formerly Fowler, the other party in this cause, were and are the same persons, and not divers. And further to the said article or exhibit he cannot depose.

GEORGE COOPER.

26th February, 1788.

The Deposition of Mary James.

MARY JAMES, wife of John James, Black Silk Weaver, of Basinghall Street, London, aged thirty-one years, a witness produced and sworn.

To the first article of the said libel, the deponent saith, She is the sister of the artute Francis Thomas Rybot, the producent in this cause, and was present at the ceremony of his marriage with the artute Alicia Rybot, formerly Fowler, the other party in this cause, which was solemnized in the parish church of Stoke Damerell, in the county of Devon, in the month of January, but in what year it was, the deponent cannot now from memory depose to; and was so solemnized according to the rites and ceremonies of the church of England, and the deponent subscribed her name in the register book of marriages of the said parish as a witness of the said marriage. And the deponent saith, the said Francis Thomas Rybot, prior to his said marriage, was a batchelor, and, as the deponent verily believes, free from all matrimonial contracts. That the deponent

deponent came to be so present at the said marriage, in consequence of the said Francis Thomas Rybot's writing to his father and mother, an account of his intended marriage, and desiring their company, and to see the lady he was going to be married to; on which occasion the deponent accompanied them, and a few days before the said marriage was first introduced to, and came personally to know the said Alicia Rybot, then Fowler, whom the deponent then understood to be a widow; and the other persons present at the said marriage that the deponent recollects, were the clergyman who married them, and the person who officiated as parish clerk.

To the third, fourth, and fifth articles the deponent saith, That immediately after their said marriage, the deponent accompanied the said Francis Thomas Rybot, and Alicia Rybot his wife, first to Plympton; from thence to Ashburton, from thence to St. Mary church in Devonshire, where they were a few days on a visit to a sister of the said Alicia Rybot's, and from thence returned to Plymouth Dock; at which place the producent left the deponent and the said Alicia Rybot, and returned again in a few days, and then accompanied them up to London. That the said Francis Thomas Rybot, and Alicia Rybot, resided and cohabited together as lawful husband and wife, first, for some time at apartments in Broadstreet, and after that at the house of the said Francis

Francis Thomas Rybot, in Cheapſide, London; from which laſt place, as the deponent hath underſtood and believes, the ſaid Alicia Rybot left her ſaid huſband, but the particular time or year in which the ſaid Alicia Rybot ſo left her ſaid huſband, the deponent cannot now depoſe to. And the deponent further ſaith, That the ſaid Francis Thomas Rybot, and Alicia Rybot, whiſt they ſo lived and cohabited together, had iſſue of their ſaid marriage, one child, a daughter, born at the houſe of the producent in Cheapſide, London, who is ſince dead; and whiſt they ſo cohabited together, the ſaid Francis Thomas Rybot, ſo far as the deponent ever ſaw or obſerved, always behaved to the ſaid Alicia Rybot his wife, with the greateſt love, tendereſs, and affection. That the deponent's intercourse and acquaintance with the ſaid Alicia Rybot was chiefly before their arrival in London, during which time the deponent found the ſaid Alicia Rybot to be a woman of very bad temper, and of a violent and turbulent diſpoſition, and the deponent hath ſeen many inſtances of violent behaviour from her towards the ſaid Francis Thomas Rybot, her huſband, both before they came to London, and from within a day or two of their marriage; and afterwards, when ever the deponent happened to viſit them in London, but which the deponent ſaith was but ſeldom, ſhe being much diſguſted at the turbulent temper and violent

(11)

violent behaviour of the said Alicia Rybot.
And further to the said articles the deponent
cannot depose.

MARY JAMES.

10th March,

10th March, 1788.

The Deposition of Mary Evans.

MARY EVANS, of Buck-lane, in the parish of St Paul, Deptford, in the county of Kent, spinster, aged eighteen years and upwards, a witness produced and sworn.

To the eighth article of the said libel the deponent saith, That between two and three years ago, and in the summer time, as she thinks it was, she the deponent lived a fortnight in the service of Mrs. Gaster, in King-street, Cheapside, London, who was a widow lady, and let most of her house out in ready furnished lodgings; and all the time the deponent so lived there, a lady who passed by the name of Fowler, and for a widow, lodged in a bedchamber up two pair of stairs, and was constantly visited there by a gentleman who

who went by the name of Schoole, who spent almost his whole time with the said Mrs. Fowler, and generally came before breakfast, and as soon as the house was open in a morning, and staid till the family were ready to go to bed at night, and had almost all his meals there. And the deponent saith, That one night in the said time, she remembers particularly the said Mr. Schoole staid at the said Mrs. Gaster's all night, and a bed was made up for him to sleep in, and the next morning the deponent's fellow servant and fellow witness, Elizabeth Giles, called the deponent up stairs to look at such bed, when it appeared quite smooth, and evidently to them that no one had slept therein, and there was only a slight impression made on the pillow as if with a hand, and the bed cloaths a little way turned down. And the deponent further saith, That she used frequently to go to the room of the said Mrs. Fowler, to attend upon her, and the said Mrs. Fowler used to keep her door bolted on the inside, and let the deponent in; and the said Mr. Schoole on such occasions used to retire into and remain in a closet till the deponent left the room; but the deponent saith, that one morning she went up and found the door not bolted, and accordingly went into the room, when she found the said Mr. Schoole and Mrs. Fowler lying on the bed together, and upon the deponent's so going in, the said Mrs. Fowler started off the bed, and came
C round

round to the deponent, and appeared a good deal confused, and had her neck and breast quite bare and exposed, without any handkerchief or tucker on; and after that time she charged the deponent never to attempt to come into the room so abruptly, nor without knocking at the door. And the deponent further saith, that at other times she hath been up in the said Mrs. Fowler's room, when she hath found her preparing to dress, and without her gown or handkerchief on, and with her neck quite exposed, and the said Mr. Schoole on such occasions hath been in the room with her, and upon the deponent's so going in, used to retire into the closet; and she hath also known the said Mr. Schoole to be several times denied to persons who have enquired for him at the house of the said Mrs. Gaster, when he has been there; and he used to be so denied by the direction of the said Mrs. Fowler. And the deponent lastly saith, she was applied to, and hath attended to be sworn and give her evidence in this cause, at the request of a Mr. Rybot, whom she understands to be a Silk Mercer in Cheapside, London, and to be the producent in this cause, but of whom she had no knowledge before he so applied to her. That she hath never seen the said Mr. Schoole or Mrs. Fowler since she left the service of the said Mrs. Gaster, and knows not that the said Mrs. Fowler and the artute Alicia Rybot, the party in this cause, was and is one and the same

same person, and not divers; and the only reasons she has to apprehend so, are her being informed thereof by her fellow witness, Elizabeth Giles, and her being applied to as aforesaid, to give her evidence in this cause. And further she cannot depose.

M. EVANS.

10th March, 1788.

The Deposition of Elizabeth Giles.

ELIZABETH GILES, now residing in Water-lane, in Fleet-street, in the parish of St. Bride's, London, widow, aged twenty-seven years, a witness produced and sworn.

To the eighth article of the said libel, the deponent saith, That in the latter end of August or beginning of September 1785, she went to live in the service of a Mrs. Gaster, in King-street, Cheapside, London, who was a widow, and kept a lodging and boarding-house there, and the deponent continued in such service till April last: That upon the deponent's going into such service, there was a lady who lodged in a bed-chamber up two pair of stairs at Mrs. Gaster's, and boarded with her and her family, and she passed in the house by the name of Fowler, and, as the deponent understood, was a married woman, and she used to wear a wedding ring; and she continued to lodge and board at the said house, about a month after the deponent so went to live there, and during such time there was a gentleman used to

to visit and spend most of his time with her there, and had his meals also with the family, who went by the name of Schoole; that such gentleman, when he did not sleep at the house, used to come before breakfast in a morning, and to be backwards and forwards at the house the whole day, and till late at night; and the deponent saith she verily believes he used also to sleep there frequently by stealth, by reason she several times observed him to go up stairs after supper without a candle, and only by the light of the lamp in the hall, and sometimes before and sometimes after the rest of the family has been gone to bed. And has also observed him to come down stairs in a morning with his shoes unbuckled, his hair loose, and dishevelled, his waistcoat half unbuttoned, and in every respect as if just risen; and the deponent has also frequently found his hat, great-coat, and stick, in the parlour when she has come down the first in the morning, and before the house was open for any body to be let in in a morning; and the deponent verily believes that on such occasions the said Mr. Schoole used to sleep in the same bed with the said Mrs. Fowler, by reason there was no bed prepared for him, nor any vacant bed in the house, the other beds being all occupied by other lodgers, and Mrs. Gaster and her servants. And the deponent further saith, That two nights during the said time the said Mr. Schoole openly and professedly slept
at

at the house of the said Mrs. Gaster, and the deponent then prepared a bed for him to sleep in the apartment of a Mrs. Morris, in the said house, who happened then to be out of town, and on the deponent's going to call him to breakfast in the morning, no one answered from his room; but, on one of the said mornings, on her going, and knocking at the door of the said Mrs. Fowler, and calling her to breakfast, she answered, and said she would get up immediately; and the deponent then heard another voice speaking to the said Mrs. Fowler, and say? Why did not you let me answer, or to that effect; but the deponent could not distinguish whose voice it was, but saith the said Mr. Schoole came down stairs to breakfast that morning, immediately after the said Mrs. Fowler; and on both the said occasions, upon the deponent's going to make the bed, which she had prepared for the said Mr. Schoole as aforesaid, she found that no one had slept in, or made use of the room, or bed, and it appeared evidently to her that the bed had not been lain in, it being quite smooth, and no mark whatever of any person having sat or lain down therein, or thereon, nor were the curtains undrawn, and the bed-cloaths were only very slightly turned down: And the deponent saith, That by reason of her said suspicions, she used to take more particular notice of the state of the said Mrs. Fowler's bed, when she went to make it in a morning,

a morning, and as well on the said two particular occasions, as at several other times, she found the marks and impressions of the bodies of two persons having lain therein, and used to find two pillows on the bolster, one of which was a spare pillow, which the deponent used in making the bed, to put under the feather-bed, as making the bed for Mrs. Fowler only. And the deponent further saith, that one night after the said Mrs. Fowler had been retired to go to bed, and the said Mr. Schoole had spent the evening at the house, and as the deponent supposed was gone, there was a candlestick wanting for one of the lodgers to go to bed by, and the deponent thereupon went up stairs to the said Mrs. Fowler's room, thinking to find a spare candlestick there, and tapping at the door, it gave way, and she found the lock had been turned, but had not catched in the staple, whereupon she went directly into the room, where the candle was burning, and she then plainly saw the said Mr. Schoole in the said Mrs. Fowler's bed, and the said Mrs. Fowler was by the bed-side with nothing on but her shift, and was either just stepping into bed, or was just got out of bed again; and upon the deponent's so going into the room, the said Mrs. Fowler said, "My God! what brought you here, you impudent creature? You have broke open the door!" To which the deponent replied, she only came to

to see if she had a spare candlestick, and immediately left the room. And the deponent saith, That on the next day, the said Mrs. Fowler again found great fault with the deponent for so coming into her room, and accused her of breaking open the door, but it appeared that the lock had not caught, owing to the catch it put into being loose, and hanging only by one nail; and the said Mr. Schoole himself the next day mended and fastened it on. And the deponent saith, that by reason of the premises she hath no doubt, in her own mind, but that the said Mr. Schoole and Mrs. Fowler frequently slept in one and the same bed together, at the house of the said Mrs. Gaster, whilst the deponent so lived there, and had the carnal use and knowledge of each other's bodies. And she saith the said Mr. Schoole used to spend a good deal of time in the day time, in the bed-room of the said Mrs. Fowler with her, and when she has happened to go up into the room when he has been there, she has observed him to slip into a closet in the room; at other times, she has found the said Mrs. Fowler tying and dressing his hair, and he used to keep both cloaths and linen in her room, and she used to have his linen washed, and pay for the washing thereof; and the deponent hath also observed, in making the said Mrs. Fowler's bed, marks or stains on the sheets, which appeared to her to be the

consequence

consequence of a man and woman having been carnally connected together; and she further saith, that one morning she was in the said Mrs. Fowler's room when she was dressing, when she asked the deponent what she thought of Mr. Schoole, and whether she thought him handsome, to which the deponent replied she thought him very well, and that he had the look of a gentleman, upon which she said she thought him very handsome; that the deponent thereupon saying, "La, Mrs. Fowler!" she replied, "Fowler! my name is not Fowler, I have been married twice, and Fowler was my first husband's name." That the deponent thereupon with surprize asked her what her name was, to which replied, "Rybot;" and the deponent then saying she thought she knew the name, and had seen it somewhere, the said Mrs. Fowler said, Yes, you may see it often in Cheapside, my husband is a Mercer there; whereupon the deponent said she thought married persons usually lived together, to which Mrs. Fowler replied, Indeed she should not live with any such good for nothing fellow, as she and the deponent then expressed themselves to that effect. And the deponent lastly saith, she only knows the artute Francis Thomas Rybot, the producent in this cause by his having applied to her about three or four months ago, to enquire of her what she knew, and had seen and

observed between the said Mr. Schoole and Mrs. Rybot, passing by the name of Fowler, at the house of Mrs. Gaster as aforesaid, and since that to give her evidence thereof in this cause, and she understood him to be the husband of the said Mrs. Rybot, and from all, and every the premises aforesaid, she verily believes that Mrs. Fowler, by her hereinbefore deposed, and who owned her name to the deponent to be Rybot, as pre-deposed, and the artute Alicia Rybot, party in this cause, wife of Francis Thomas Rybot, the producent, was and is one and the same person, and not divers, and that the said Alicia Rybot, by having as she verily believes been carnally connected with the said Mr. Schoole, as pre-deposed, committed the crime of adultery with him, and further cannot depose.

The mark of

X

ELIZABETH GILES.

11th March, 1788.

The Deposition of Martha Russell.

MARTHA RUSSELL, of Queen-street, Brompton, in the parish of Kentington, in the county of Middlesex, widow, aged forty-seven years, a witness produced and sworn.

To the twelfth article of the said libel the deponent saith, That the latter end of August or beginning of September, 1786, a lady came and took a lodging in the deponent's house at Brompton aforesaid, consisting of a bed-room, and by boarding with the deponent had the use of the parlour; that she continued so to lodge and board with the deponent seven weeks and upwards, and passed for a widow, and by the name of Fowler; and within a few days after her so coming, she introduced to the house, a gentleman, as a gentleman of the law who had business to transact for her, and the said gentleman afterwards used to be frequently at the deponent's house to visit the said Mrs. Fowler, and when she has been out, he used also to come home with her of an evening, and sometimes pretty late at night,

and in the course of the time the said Mrs. Fowler so lodged with the deponent, such gentleman slept at least five nights at the deponent's house, if not more; that the first night of his so sleeping there, he came home with the said Mrs. Fowler very late, and it rained hard, and the deponent then offered him a bed, and the other times were when he used to come home very late at night with the said Mrs. Fowler, and she asked for a bed for him, and the bed which used to be made up for the said gentleman on those occasions, was in the back room up two pair of stairs, over the said Mrs. Fowler's room. And the deponent saith, that the said gentleman on his said visits, passed for a gentleman who had law business to transact for her, and she used to call him the gentleman of the law, but not by his name. But this deponent saith that she at times observed that degree of fondness and familiarity between the said Mrs. Fowler and the said gentleman, which she thought improper unless they were married, and induced her to suspect they were secretly married but did not care to own it, and she accordingly several times asked the said Mrs. Fowler if they were not married, but never could get her to own that they were married, though she once confessed she was a married woman, but would not answer the deponent's question whether the said gentleman was her husband. And the deponent further saith, that
the

the last night but one that the said gentleman so slept at the deponent's house, she heard her daughter who lay on the same floor with the said gentleman, and had several of the deponent's boarders sleeping in the same room with her, cry out in the night, and call for the deponent, but the deponent did not go to her, by reason a suspicion arose in her mind that such alarm was occasioned by the said gentleman quitting his own room, and attempting to go to the room of the said Mrs. Fowler, or something of that kind. That the next day the deponent's daughter told her how she had been alarmed by somebody having been at her door in the night, and she was afraid it was thieves; that the deponent thereupon told her of her suspicions, directed her to say nothing about it, and said that the next night the said gentleman slept at the house, she the deponent would watch him.

To the thirteenth and fourteenth articles the deponent saith, That accordingly the next night the said gentleman so slept at the deponent's house, after every body was retired to go to bed, the deponent watched on the staircase leading from the ground floor up one pair of stairs, and after so watching some time, she plainly heard the footsteps of a man come down stairs from the two pair of stairs floor, and go into the bed-room of the said Mrs. Fowler, which was the back room, and put the door to after him, immediately after which
the

the deponent retired to her own room which was on the ground floor. And the deponent saith, that although she was in the dark, and could not see the person of the said gentleman, she was convinced it must be him and no one else whom she heard go into the room of the said Mrs. Fowler, by reason it was a man's footstep she heard, and he was the only man in the house, and the only grown person in the house except the deponent's daughter, Mrs. Fowler, and the deponent herself, she having then no servant in the house. And the deponent further saith, that by means of a letter which she had seen in a drawer of the said Mrs. Fowler, she was led to suppose that before she came to lodge with the deponent, she had lodged at the house of a lady in King Street, Cheapside, whose name the deponent then observed, but has since forgotten; and accordingly the next day after the deponent had so watched, she made it her business to go and learn what she could of the said lady, as to the said Mrs. Fowler and the said gentleman, and after describing them, was informed, that the said Mrs. Fowler had lodged there, and that she was a Mrs. Rybot, the wife of a Mr. Rybot, a Mercer in Cheapside, London, and that the gentleman who visited, and was with her, was a Mr. Schoole, and that a criminal connection subsisted between them, and the said Mrs. Rybot was a woman of very bad character. That the said lady then referred

referred the deponent to another place where the said Mrs. Rybot had lodged by the name of Fowler, and had been visited by the said Mr. Schoole, where the deponent also made enquiry, and heard the same kind of account of her as she had from the lady in King-street, and her said second enquiry was made at a house, No. 3, in a street leading into the Fleet-market. And the deponent further saith, that the day after the deponent had gotten such information, the said Mr. Schoole again visited the said Mrs. Rybot, by the name of Fowler, at the deponent's house, and the deponent then told them and taxed them with what she had learned respecting them, and the said Mrs. Rybot then confessed her true name to be Rybot, and that she was the wife of a Mr. Rybot, a Mercer in Cheapside, by whom she had had a child; and the said gentleman then confessed his name to be Schoole, and they, and the said Mrs. Rybot in particular, talked very violently to, and threatened the deponent very much, saying, she had taken their character away, and they would prosecute, and be the ruin of her, and talked a great deal to that effect, and the deponent was thereby very much alarmed, and desirous of getting them out of her house as soon as she could, and accordingly the said Mrs. Rybot quitted the deponent's house in four or five days afterwards. And the deponent further saith, that whilst the said Mrs. Rybot

Rybot so lodged at the deponent's house, the said Mr. Schoole used to have linen there, which she from time to time put out to be washed, and paid for the washing of, and they frequently behaved very freely and familiarly to each other, and at other times quarrelled and fought; and, as far as the deponent is enabled to judge from every thing she saw between the said Mrs. Rybot and Mr. Schoole, she verily believes a criminal and adulterous intercourse subsisted between them, and that they slept in one and the same bed together, more than once, at the deponent's house whilst the said Mrs. Rybot so lodged there, and had the carnal use and knowledge of each other's bodies, and thereby committed the crime of adultery together. And the deponent further saith, that some time before Christmas last, a person, till then a stranger to the deponent, came and made enquiry of her after the said Mrs. Fowler and the said gentleman who had so visited her at the deponent's house, and the deponent told him all she knew about them, and he then informed her his name was Rybot, and that he was the husband of the said Mrs. Rybot who so lodged with the deponent and went by the name of Fowler, and she hath since been called upon and required by him to give her evidence in this cause; and further to the said articles she cannot depose.

MARTHA RUSSELL.

11th March, 1788.

The Deposition of Ursula Sharrier.

URSULA SHARRIER, wife of Thomas Sharrier, Silk Throwster, now residing with Francis Thomas Rybot, the producent in this cause, in Cheapside, London, aged thirty-four years, a witness produced and sworn.

To the fifth article of the said libel the deponent saith, she is the sister of the artute Francis Thomas Rybot, the producent in this cause, and came to know the artute Alicia Rybot, formerly Fowler, the other party in this cause, by being introduced to her acquaintance in consequence of her marriage with the said Francis Thomas Rybot, and cohabiting with him as his wife for some time after their said marriage. That the deponent, however, never was in company with the said Alicia Rybot more than four or five times during her said knowledge of her, but in that time had opportunity of observing by her behaviour, that she was a woman of a very passionate and turbulent temper and disposition; and one of

E

the

the said times, in a quarrel which she had with the producent, she was very outrageous indeed, and besides railing at, and abusing him in very gross language, struck him twice, and upon attempting to strike him a third time, he held her hands down and prevented her, and she thereupon spit in his face. And the deponent further saith, that the said Alicia Rybot twice eloped from the producent, and the last time was, as the deponent thinks, upwards of six years ago, since which the said Francis Thomas Rybot hath never cohabited with, or had any personal intercourse whatever with, the said Alicia Rybot, as the deponent verily believes, the deponent herself having resided with the producent as her home these three years past. And further to the said article she cannot depose.

URSULA SHARRIER.

17th March, 1788.

The Deposition of Job Bull.

JOB BULL, of Walnut-tree Walk, in the precinct of St. Mary, Lambeth, in the county of Surry, Butcher, aged about forty-five years, a witness produced and sworn.

To the fifth article of the said libel the deponent saith, That about a year ago, or it may be better, a gentleman of the name of Schoole took a house and came to reside therein, in Walnut-tree Walk, near Lambeth, and in the neighbourhood of the deponent, and continued to reside there till within about three months past; and the deponent during such time served him with meat, and thereby came to know him, and understood him to be a person in the law. And the deponent saith, he hath frequently seen a lady at the said house, of the name of Fowler, but who, as he believes, did not continually reside, but was there at times, for a week or a fortnight, or so at a time; and the deponent hath frequently seen the said Mr. Schoole and Mrs.

Fowler go into, and out of, the said house together, and walk, and appear upon a very familiar footing together, and she hath many times bought meat of the deponent, and paid for it, and ordered it to be sent to the said Mr. Schoole's, and on such occasions, when the deponent at first used to ask who the meat was for, she used to say her name was Fowler, and it was to go to Mr. Schoole's; and the deponent hath also seen the said Mrs. Fowler at Mr. Schoole's when he has been there, early in a morning, and very loofely dressed, and to all appearance as if just risen; and from every appearance the deponent is well convinced, in his own mind, that the said Mrs. Fowler used at times to reside in the said house with the said Mr. Schoole, but upon what footing the deponent cannot of his own knowledge take upon him to say. And the deponent further saith, there was a man who lived as a clerk with the said Mr. Schoole, at his said house in Walnut-tree Walk, who used to be frequently at the deponent's shop, and often mentioned that the said Mrs. Fowler's true name was Rybot, and that her husband was a tradesman in the city, and the deponent hath also since been informed to the same effect from other quarters, and hath seen the artute Francis Thomas Rybot the producent in this cause, whom he understands to be a Mercer in Cheapside, and to be the husband
of

of the said Mrs. Rybot, whom the deponent so knew by the name of Fowler. And further to the said article he cannot depose.

JOB BULL:

of the said Mrs. Foster, whom the deponent
 to know by the name of Foster. And fur-
 ther, he cannot depose. 17th March, 1788.

The Deposition of John Foster.

JOHN FOSTER, of Ferry-street, in the parish of St. Mary, Lambeth, in the county of Surry, Watchman, aged seventy-two years, a witness produced and sworn.

To the fifteenth article of the said libel the deponent saith, he now is, and for many years past has been a Watchman to the houses and inhabitants of Walnut-tree Walk, near Lambeth, and is paid by the inhabitants for the time being of the said houses, for so watching, and thereby knows them all. That there was a gentleman of the name of Schoole who came to reside in a house in the said Walk, between Christmas 1786, and Lady Day 1787, and continued to reside there till the Michaelmas following, and during that time used, as an inhabitant of the said Walk, to pay the deponent as watchman, and the deponent understands he has still possession of the house, though he does not reside there. And the deponent saith, that besides his said employ as watchman, he used to stop at his watch box
 till

till after breakfast in the morning, to black shoes, and by being so situated, the deponent has many times seen a lady come home with the said Mr. Schoole at different times, between the hours of nine and twelve o'clock at night, and the deponent has often lighted a candle for them, they having no maid servant there, and has fetched pickled salmon, ordered porter and other things for them at night, and has also frequently in a morning fetched them wood to light their fire, lighted their candle, brought them tea, sugar, bread, and butter, and blacked his shoes and her clogs, and has often seen them leave the said house to walk in a morning. And the deponent thereby well knows the said lady was very frequently all night in the said house with the said Mr. Schoole, but upon what footing she was so with him, the deponent cannot say. And the deponent further saith, that during the said time there was a man used to come to the said house of a morning, and go away again of an evening, and who, as the deponent understood from him, was with the said Mr. Schoole in the capacity of a clerk, and that the said Mr. Schoole was in the law, and the said clerk used often to give the deponent directions to go on errands for the said lady by him above deposed, when she has been in the house, and to tell him to fetch such and such things, or to do such and such things for Mrs. Fowler, and by so hearing the said clerk frequently
 speak

Speak of the said lady by the name of Fowler, the deponent came to understand that that was her name. And further to the said article he cannot depose.

The mark of

X

JOHN FOSTER.

5th April,

5th April, 1788.

The Deposition of Susanna Russell.

SUSANNAH RUSSEL, of Brompton, in the parish of Kensington, in the county of Middlesex, spinster, aged twenty years, a witness produced and sworn.

To the twelfth and thirteenth article of the said libel the deponent saith, That some time in the winter before last, as nearly as she can now recollect the time, it being after fires were in use, a lady, who went by the name of Fowler, and passed for a widow, came and lodged and boarded with the deponent's mother in Queen's-street, Brompton, and continued with them some weeks, but how long in particular the deponent cannot recollect; and during such time a gentleman, whose name the deponent did not know for some time, but afterwards understood to be Schoole, came very often to visit the said Mrs. Fowler, and be a great deal at the house, as well at meals as at other times, and used to be a great deal alone with the said Mrs. Fowler in the parlour; that they also went out frequently together, and he used, when the said Mrs. Fowler staid out of an evening, to accompany her home, and stay sometimes pretty late at night; that during the said time also, the said Mr. Schoole slept several times at the deponent's mother's house, but how many in particular the deponent cannot say; that the occasion of his first sleeping there, the deponent remembers was by his coming home one evening with the said Mrs. Fowler, when he staid supper, and it

F

raining

raining hard, the said Mrs. Fowler saying it was a pity he should be obliged to go home in the rain, the deponents mother offered him a bed; and after that, the said Mrs. Fowler several times begged the use of the said bed for him, on account of its raining of a night when he happened to be there, or of his staying late; and the room the said Mr. Schoole used so to sleep in, was up two pair of stairs, immediately over Mrs. Fowler's, and on the same floor with the deponent. And the deponent further saith, That one night that the said Mr. Schoole so slept at the house, in the dead of the night the deponent was waked, and alarmed with the noise of a person coming up stairs, and heard the stairs crack, and then the noise of a person tapping along the wainscot and door, as if feeling the way; and then the deponent heard the said Mr. Schoole's bed crack, as if some person was getting into bed; that the deponent being much frightened, cried out, upon which the said Mr. Schoole called to the deponent, and asked her what was the matter? to which she replied she thought there were thieves in the house, and he thereupon answered, "Oh, nonsense, there are no thieves; go to sleep." That the next morning the deponent's mother told her she had heard her call in the night; that she believed there was no good between Mr. Schoole and Mrs. Fowler, and was determined to watch them the next night he slept at the house; and from what the deponent afterwards learnt from her mother, understood that she afterwards was satisfied there was a criminal intercourse between them, and found that the said Mrs. Fowler was a married woman of the name of Rybot, and she thereupon got the said Mrs. Fowler to quit her house. And the deponent further saith, That during the said time, the said Mr. Schoole and Mrs. Fowler used commonly to call each other my dear; and the deponent has often seen them kiss each other, but never saw

saw any further familiarities between them; that the said Mrs. Fowler used to say the said Mr. Schoole was a counsellor; but the deponent never knew the said lady call herself by or acknowledge her name to be any other than that of Fowler, and hath never seen her since she left her mother's house. And the deponent further saith, the first knowledge she ever had of the articulate Francis Thomas Rybot the producent, was about half a year ago, by his coming to the deponent's mother's house, and enquiring and learning from her and the deponent the particulars of the said Mrs. Fowler having lodged and boarded at their house, and of the intercourse between her and the said Mr. Schoole there, since which the deponent has seen him three or four times respecting the said business of her and her mother being examined as witnesses in this cause; and the deponent has been at his house in Cheapside, where he keeps a Mercers Shop, and has heard him repeatedly speak of and say that the said lady who so lodged at the deponent's mother's house, by the name of Fowler, was his wife; and further to the said articles she cannot depose.

SUSANNA RUSSELL.

17th April, 1788.

The Deposition of Susanna Lawrence.

SSUSANNA LAWRENCE, (wife of John Rogers Lawrence) of Fleet-street, in the parish of St. Dunstun in the West, London, aged forty-four years, a witness produced and sworn.

To the third, seventh, eighth, and ninth articles of the said libel the deponent saith, she was first introduced to the knowledge and acquaintance of the articulate Francis Thomas Rybot, the producent in this cause, and Alicia Rybot his wife, by means of a Miss Huxham, a lady from Plymouth, being on a visit to the deponent for about six weeks at her then house in Thaives Inn, Holborn; and the said Miss Huxham being an acquaintance of Mrs. Rybot (who, the deponent understood, came out of Devonshire) the deponent and her husband, in company with the said Miss Huxham, first visited the said Mr. and Mrs. Rybot at their lodgings in Broad-street, London, but how many years ago that is, the deponent cannot say, but thinks it may be as much as nine years ago; and after that, and after Miss Huxham returned into the country, the deponent for some time continued her acquaintance with the said Mrs. Rybot, by the desire of Miss Huxham, and visited her and her husband in Cheap-side, London, where the producent then kept a mercer's shop, and continued so to visit them till nearly about the time that, as the deponent understood, the said Mrs. Rybot left the producent, and went into Devonshire; that from that time the deponent had no further

Further acquaintance with the said Mrs. Rybot till about four years ago, as the deponent thinks it was, when the deponent accidentally met her in the street, and from, and after that time, visited her at several places that she lodged at, to wit, first, at Mr. Dawes's, a grocer, opposite Hungerford Market, in the Strand; after that, at Mr. Croyden's, a taylor, in Holles-street, Clare Market; after that, at a Mr. Emmertsons, or some such name, in Charles-street, Westminster; after that at Mr. Clark's, in the same street; after that at the Reverend Mr. Stone's, at Brompton-row, Knightsbridge; after that at Mr. Gurats, or some such name, in King-street, Cheapside, London; after that at Mr. Priestman's, a mercer, in Chandos-street, Covent Garden; after that at a taylor's in Craven Buildings, Drury Lane, whose name the deponent cannot recollect, which last place she quitted about a month ago, as the deponent thinks it was, and since which the deponent hath not seen her, except at the deponent's house. And the deponent further saith, that ever since she has so been acquainted with the said Mrs. Rybot the second time, the deponent hath understood from her, that she was parted from the said Mr. Rybot, her husband, and saith that she assumed, and constantly went by the name of Fowler, which was her name before her marriage with Mr. Fowler; that there were sometime (during such period) great intervals of time in which the deponent did not see the said Mrs. Rybot, or if she did, only at the deponent's residence, and therefore she might, within the four years last past, have lodged at other places where the deponent did not see or visit her; that the deponent came to know a gentleman of the name of Schoole only by his having been several times in company with the said Mrs. Rybot (by the name of Fowler) at the deponent's house, and the deponent was with them when the said Mrs. Rybot (by the name

name of Fowler) took her lodgings at the Reverend Mr. Stones aforesaid, and also once or twice saw him as a visitor to the said Mrs. Rybot (by the name of Fowler) whilst she lodged at Mr. Croydon's, and at Mr. Priestman's, and at Mr. Dawes's, as pre-deposed, but does not recollect to have seen him at any other of the said Mrs. Rybot's lodgings; that the deponent during such time always understood, and believed, the said Mr. Schoole to be a solicitor, and concerned as such for the said Mrs. Rybot in conducting a cause in chancery for her and Miss Fowler, a daughter of her's, by her first husband, but had no knowledge of him in any other light or character; and further to the said articles she cannot depose.

SUSANNA LAWRENCE.

17th April, 1788.

The Deposition of John Rogers Lawrence.

JOHN ROGERS LAWRENCE of Fleet-street, London, Gentleman, aged forty-eight years, a witness produced and sworn.

To the third, seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth articles of the said libel, the deponent saith, that some years ago, but how many in particular the deponent cannot say, a Miss Huxham from Plymouth, was on a visit for about six weeks to the deponent and his wife at their then house in Thaives Inn, Holborn, and during that time they were by her first introduced to the knowledge of and in company with her visited the articulate Francis Thomas Rybot, the producent, and Alicia Rybot his wife, the other party in this cause, at their lodgings in or near Bread-street, London, somewhere behind the Exchange, and afterwards the deponent

ponent and his said wife visited the said Mr. and Mrs. Rybot for some time at their house in Cheap-side, London; (where the producent kept a Mercer's Shop) during which time they the said Mr. and Mrs. Rybot lived and cohabited together as lawful husband and wife, but how long the deponent and his said wife so continued to visit them he cannot say, that their acquaintance after that dropped for a considerable time, and then was renewed again, with the said Mrs. Rybot only, but how many years since the deponent cannot say, and since their acquaintance hath so been renewed it hath continued to the present time, but since such renewal of their acquaintance the said Mrs. Rybot hath as the deponent ever understood and believes, lived separate and apart from the producent, and hath constantly gone by the name of Fowler, which the deponent understands to have been the name of her first husband, and the deponent hath often heard the said Mrs. Rybot since such renewed acquaintance say that she had never gone by the name of Rybot since her separation from the producent, but by that of Fowler; that since the deponent hath so known the said Mrs. Rybot by the name of Fowler, he hath known her to lodge at, and with his wife, has visited her at several different places; that he cannot recollect or mention the name of all the places, but remembers particularly to have visited her at the house of the Rev. Mr. Stone, at Brompton Row, near Knightsbridge, which, he thinks, must have been about three years ago; that he and his wife also once drank tea with her at her lodgings in King-street, Cheap-side, at a Mr. Gasters, or some such name, which was, as the deponent thinks, after she left Mr. Stone; that the deponent and his wife also after that, as he thinks, visited her at two different lodgings in Charles-street, Westminster, one of which was, as he thinks, at a Mr. Emmerfons, or some such name, but the name of the other he cannot re-

recollect, and that whilst she was so at Mr. Emmer-
 son's she was ill. And the deponent further saith,
 that by means of his said renewed acquaintance with
 the said Mrs. Rybot, by the name of Fowler, and as
 an acquaintance of her's, he hath been introduced to,
 and became acquainted with, a gentleman of the name
 of Schoole, and hath been in company with him and
 the said Mrs. Rybot many times, and in different
 places, particularty at the said Mrs. Rybot's lodgings,
 at Mr. Stone's, at Brompton, as aforesaid, and at Mr.
 Emmerfon's, and at the other lodging in Charles-
 street, and frequently at the deponent's own house, and
 he hath called on the said Mr. Schoole at a house he
 had at Lambeth, in Walnut-tree Walk, as the depo-
 nent thinks it was; that the deponent hath always un-
 derstood the said Mr. Schoole to be a barrister, or in
 some way in the profession of the law, and as such to
 have been concerned for the said Mrs. Rybot in a
 chancery suit on behalf of Miss Fowler, a daughter of
 her's by her first husband, and he used often to hear
 them talk together respecting the said suit, and the pro-
 ceedings therein, but he never looked on, or considered
 Mr. Schoole in any other light or character, with re-
 spect to the said Mrs. Rybot, than as an acquaintance
 of the said Mrs. Rybot, and being employed by, and
 concerned for her, in the said suit, in the line of his
 profession; and the deponent well knows that the said
 Mrs. Rybot, whom he so first knew by that name, and
 as the wife of the articulate Francis Thomas Rybot,
 the producent, and afterwards knew by the name of
 Fowler, as pre-deposed, was, and is, one and the same
 person, and not divers; and he verily believes the said
 Mrs. Rybot, afterwards Fowler, and the articulate Ali-
 cia Rybot, party in this cause, to be one and the same
 person, and not divers; and further he cannot depose.

J. R. LAWRENCE.

S E N T E N C E.

Upon hearing the depositions in this cause, it was decreed and adjudged, that Mrs. Alicia Rybot be divorced from mutual cohabitation with Francis Thomas Rybot, Esq. her husband, by reason of adultery.

F I N I S.

SENTENCE.

Upon hearing the depositions in this case, it was
 decreed and adjudged, that Miss Alice Rybot
 be divorced from marital cohabitation with Francis Thomas
 Rybot, Esq. her husband, by reason of adultery.

FINIS.

